

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

Release Date: February 10, 2006 **Release Number:** NV 10370 - 1 **Contact:** Richard A. Jenkins **Phone:** (916) 735-1500

SBA Declares Disaster in Washoe County

Sacramento, CA – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today declared Washoe County and the neighboring counties of Carson City, Churchill, Humboldt, Lyon, Pershing and Storey; and the California Counties of Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer and Sierra; and the Oregon Counties of Harney and Lake a disaster area due to damage caused by severe storms and flooding that occurred December 30, 2005 through January 4, 2006. Following the February 3rd denial of the state's request for a major disaster declaration, SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties a disaster area.

According to John E. Scott II, SBA's Nevada District Director, low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the storms and flooding.

"SBA Customer Service Representatives will be on hand at the following location to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Scott said. The office will be open on the following days and times:

Reno SBA Reno Branch Office 745 West Moana Lane, Suite 375

Mondays through Fridays, 9 am - 6 pm Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm

Beginning Tuesday, February 14th through Saturday, March 4th

"Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property," said Scott. "Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future. In addition, for small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage," he added.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling **toll-free (800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications may be mailed to SBA at 14925 Kingsport Road, Ft. Worth, TX 76155.

The **filing deadline** to return applications for property damage is **April 11, 2006.** The deadline to return economic injury applications is **November 13, 2006** for economic injury applications.